

SOCIAL PRESCRIBING PLUS

ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026

*“Social prescribing is a means for trusted individuals in clinical and community settings to identify that a person has **non-medical, health-related social needs**, and to subsequently **connect them to non-clinical support and services within the community** by co-producing a social prescription: a non-medical prescription to **improve health and wellbeing, and to strengthen community connections**”*

SIS delivers Bilingual Social Prescribing in Brighton and Hove, through a team of linguist who share a lived experience with our Service Users. We offer tiered support;

361 referrals triaged by our **Volunteer Social Prescribers** and offered immediate support

29 onward referrals to **Social Prescribing Caseworkers** to provide more intensive, sustained support

6 onward referrals to **Advocates** (Q1 only) to help people say what they want and secure their rights.

We worked with **240 individuals**, indicating many re-referrals for continued help. This monitoring helped us identify and recognise 20 situations where volunteers were delivering sustained support similar to casework and provide enhanced supervision and skills development through the Project Coordinator.

We recruited 5 new Volunteer expanding capacity and strengthening support in high-demand languages including Arabic, Dari, Farsi, Pashto, Portuguese, Russian and Ukrainian.

On behalf of Brighton & Hove City Council we allocated £3000 of Household Support Grants in the form of supermarket and clothing vouchers to 38 households in financial hardship.

Ongoing housing issues remained one of the most common and difficult areas of support, with limited influence over accommodation quality and housing allocation timescales.

Service users' immediate practical needs often took priority over emotional and social wellbeing, making holistic support more challenging.

Loss of funding resulted in the closure of specialist bilingual advocacy after Q1 and BCN casework at the end of the year. There is alternative casework provision in the city but this is very fractured across multiple providers with little preferred language delivery and waiting lists running through out.

Impact of case work is measured via the change recorded by Service Users in key areas. A scaled questionnaire is administered at the 1st and last appointment.

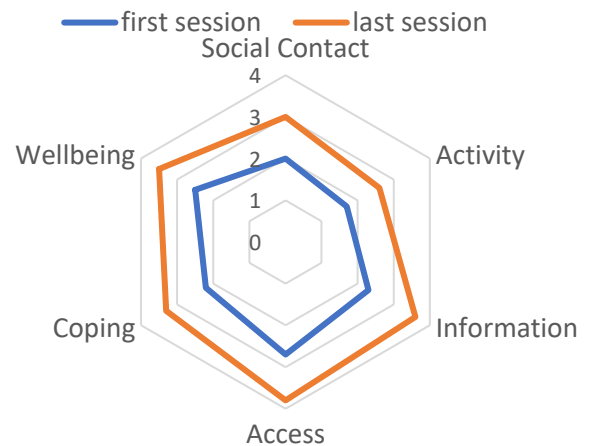
This impact has remained consistent from year to year with the biggest increases usually seen for

- Access to information and services
- Ability to Cope

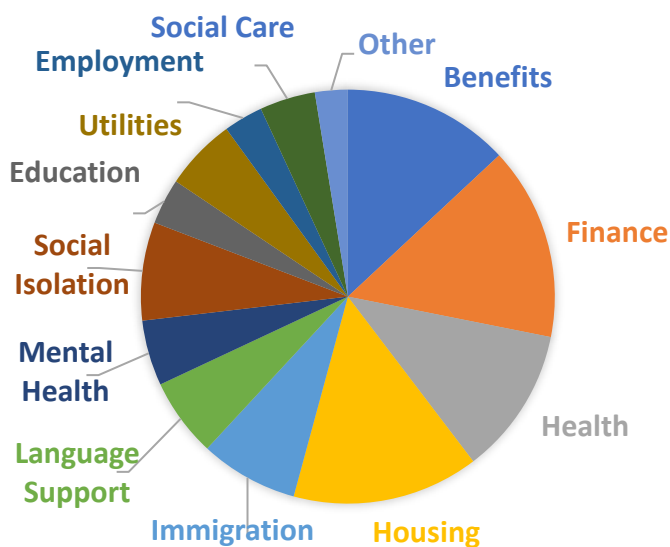
We also publish case studies

<https://sussexinterpreting.org.uk/sis-stories/>

Average Impact for 16 Service Users receiving casework support



PRESENTING ISSUES



Presenting issues are fairly similar year to year but there was a significant rise in people seeking help with finances including utilities and food security. We also saw an increase in for Social Care because of the closure to the advocacy service.

Social prescribers made **214 onward referrals to 53 organisations** & departments including;

Local Specialist Support & Advice Services

BHCC departments

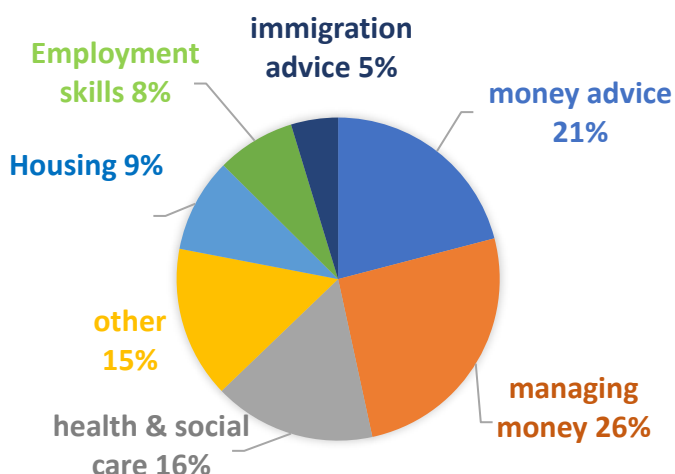
NHS hospital departments

Local Social Groups

Local ESOL providers

National Government Helplines

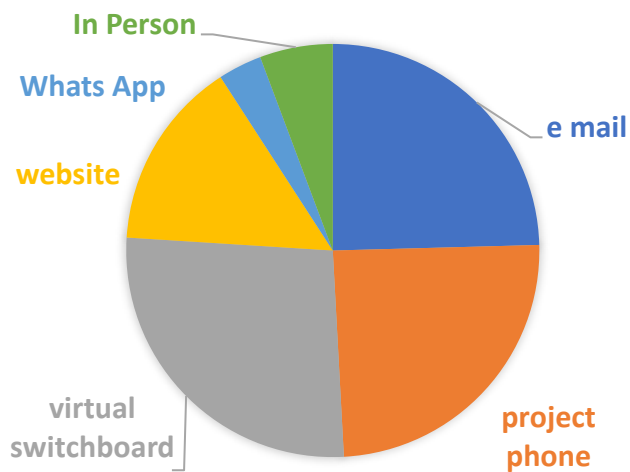
ONWARD REFERRAL SERVICES



Nearly half of onward referrals were to **specialist money advice services or for support managing benefits, debt and cost of living** such as;

- discussions with utilities providers & council tax team about tariffs, discounts and payment schemes
- understanding and access to libraries of things, swap shops, repair cafes, bursaries
- skills development to improve employment prospects such as ESOL classes, digital inclusion and help with CV writing

SELF-REFERRALS



53% of SIS Service Users self-refer into our service and a further 16% are referred by SIS staff or linguists. These options are essential to our Service Users because the language barrier can make access to mainstream services very challenging; there is nearly always a need to make phone calls, complete forms, and navigate websites and apps in English.

SIS offers a accessibility consultation to the NHS, LA and VCSEs to help them make their services more accessible to our Service Users.